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VALLEY STAR

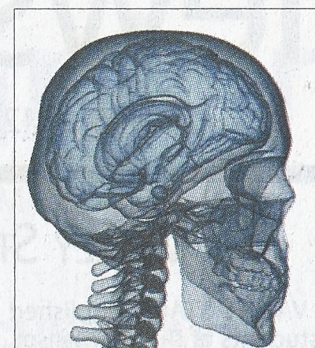
the independent student newspaper

Should employers be able to
inquire about e-mail and social
media account passwords?

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The Valley Star reviews Hugo's
Tacos in Studio City.

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 5

Scientists research the possible
connection between concussions
and suicide.

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lavalleystar.com

May 16, 2012

Volume 76 Issue 7

SPECIAL REPORT

THE OVERLOOKED ALTERNATIVE FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who choose not to apply to private colleges to avoid higher tuition may be unaware of the financial and academic benefits of these institutions.

EDYTHE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Students looking to transfer to a four-year university are faced with two major options: public or private. While applications to the former outnumber those for private colleges, these often-overlooked alternatives offer an experience that may outweigh or balance the costs.

An editorial featured March 18 in the Contra Costa Times stressed the lack of cost effectiveness in the majority of colleges, specifically those in California. Public universities, including those in the UC and CSU systems, have experienced a tremendous increase in fees in the past 10 years. The spike is due, in part, to the financial crisis the state is experiencing, causing a drawback in federal funding for education.

"Amazingly, recent fee increases have sent University of California and California State University costs above those at Harvard and Yale for middle-income students who do not qual-

ify for reduced fees," the editorial reads.

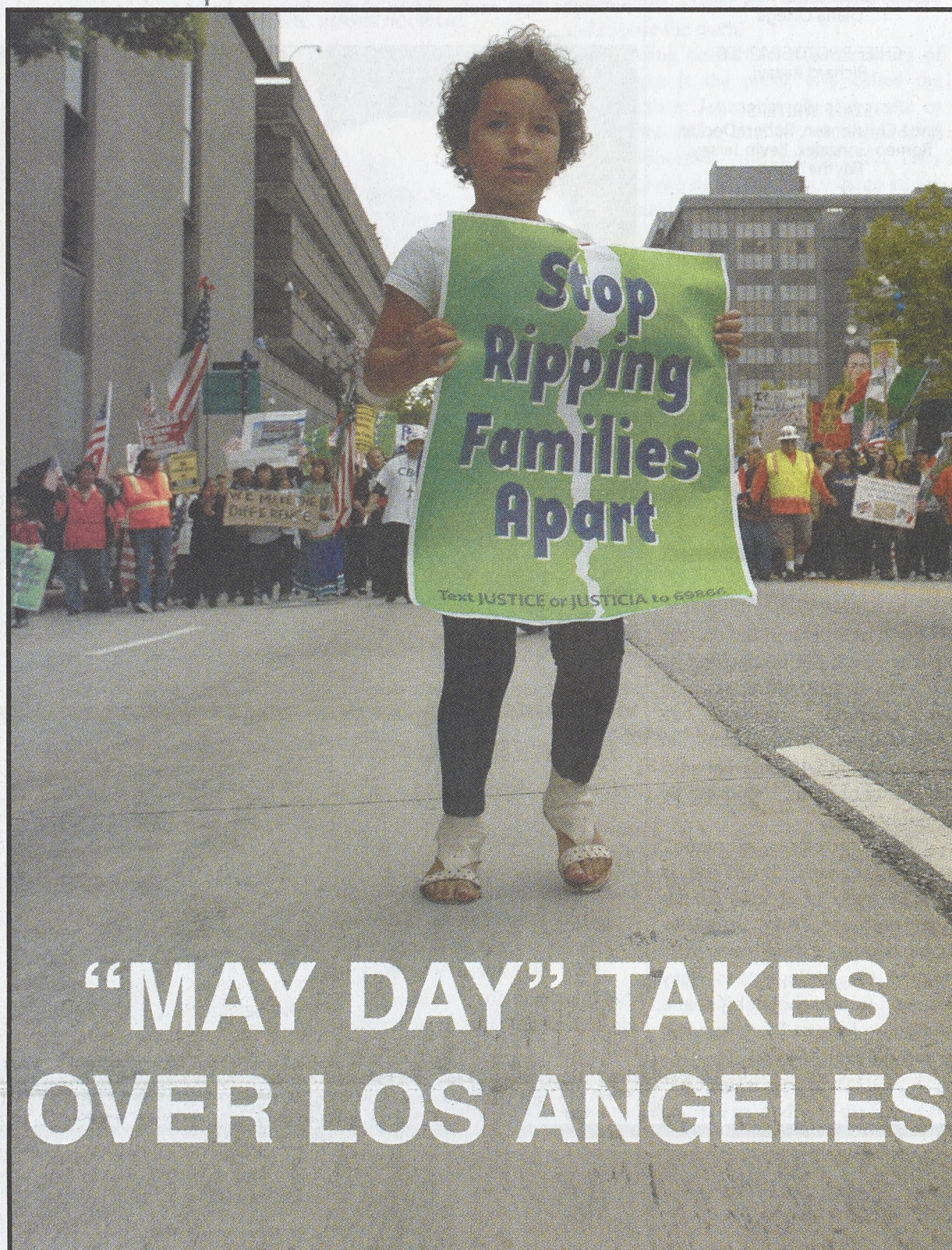
According to the article, fees in the UC and CSU systems have seen an inflation rate of 14 percent from 2006 to 2011. Aside from the lack of funding from the state, budgetary issues are also effected by reduced fees for low-income students and an increasing amount of individuals returning to college or transferring for a bachelor's degree.

Private universities may offer less of a strain for students from any background—assuming they have good or above-average standings at their previous schools. According to U.S. News, the average cost of attendance at a private university in 2010 was \$35,000. This may seem like an overwhelming price tag for education, but many do not take into consideration the aid available to those who apply.

In California, a resident attending a private university can apply for both state and private funding; in addition to federal aid, grants and scholarships are available through private foundations and alumni. These merit and need-based awards at private universities range from full tuition to a large fraction of the costs.

However, affordability is not always the weighing factor for students who apply to private

[See TRANSFER Page 2]



"MAY DAY" TAKES OVER LOS ANGELES

A CHILD'S PLEA - Thousands marched through Downtown Los Angeles May 1 for the May Day general strike, calling for social reforms including immigrant and workers' rights. The march coincided with International Workers' Day, which traditionally serves to bring to light concerns over workers' rights and work conditions. Although May Day dates back to 1886, due to the recent controversy over immigration within the social and political realm, immigration reform groups have begun to call for immigrant workers to strike on May Day to emphasize their impact on society and the economy.

MORRIS DE LA ROCA | VALLEY STAR



MONICA HERNANDEZ | VALLEY STAR

A DAY OF ACTIVITIES - (Left to right) Erick Sanchez, Aundrea Paulett, Lester B. Salvador and Anne Tufenkjian enjoyed several of the events which took place during club day last week in Monarch Square. The day focused on transferring, and the theme was LGBTQ.

CLUB DAY FOCUSES ON COUNSELING

The Valley College Career/Transfer Center reminded students of changes for the upcoming semester during club day.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College community was treated to a day of fun and games when the Associated Student Union was host to Monarch Square's final club day of the spring semester last week, in which the Career/Transfer Center reminded students to register for the fall.

Complimentary food and refreshments were offered to everyone who attended, along with an afternoon filled with various activities.

"It's spirit day, an end-of-the-year party," said ASU Commissioner of Athletics George Markarian. "We have more of a party theme today."

Since the purpose of the afternoon was to have a huge party, all clubs participating in the event were encouraged to have games at their stations available for club day attendees.

The dance club was host to a hip-hop dance competition where six members faced off in the middle of Monarch Square and started what became a very intense dance battle. The winner, who was chosen by the audience, was awarded with an iTunes gift card.

The dance battle was not the only event that promoted physical activity: the Active Club was host to several games, which included a quarterback toss, star darts and a ring toss. Any of the attendees who decided to try their luck with

[See CLUB DAY Page 2]

STUDENTS CONTINUE HUNGER STRIKE AT CSU

Questions about the influence of the faculty union in the student protest remain unanswered as strikers' health is still jeopardized.

KEVIN JERSEY
STAFF WRITER

Twelve students spread across six California State University campuses who are engaged in a controversial and dangerous hunger strike may be little more than pawns in a dispute between CSU and the faculty union.

The strikers are members of Students for Quality Education, a group composed of paid interns for the California Faculty Association—the very union currently in negotiations with CSU. This has raised concerns among administrators.

"The faculty union says that they did not encourage this action," said CSU spokesperson Erik Fallis. "I hope for the sake of their moral integrity that that is true."

Both the CFA and CSU have stated that their chief concern as the strike continues is for the safety of the students involved. The strikers are refusing all solid foods, drinking only water and vegetable juice. At least one stu-

dent, Raiza Arias of CSUN, has already required medical attention. She is continuing the hunger strike against the advice of doctors. The protestors are also risking their academic success, as the lack of food could potentially hinder their class performance.

The CFA insists that the students decided to engage in their protest independently, but concedes that their demands are similar. The strikers are seeking a five-year moratorium on tuition hikes and a reversal of pay increases to university executives. The union demands include a salary increase for faculty, but they also oppose a pay hike for executives.

"In many ways, our interests are intertwined," said Brian Ferguson, a spokesperson for the CFA. "We are well aware of the obstacles they face because we face them as well from an administration that refuses to negotiate." He also admitted that the strikers have been supportive of the union in their ongoing discussions with CSU.

Fallis thinks there is a reason for this support. "Clearly, the students who are paid interns of the CFA are very supportive of the CFA," he said. "I believe the faculty union has been very blatant in manipulating certain groups of students."

[See HUNGER STRIKE Page 2]

ON THE LOOKOUT...

SCIENCE EDUCATION FAILS TO INFORM STUDENTS

A lack of motivation among science instructors fails to inspire students to pursue extracurricular science-related competitions that could benefit the world.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN

Valley College has a problem mustering enough faculty interest to engage students in extracurricular, potentially groundbreaking science research. After contacting Valley's multiple science departments to inquire about student or instructor participation in the medical diagnostic device competition held by the X-Prize Foundation, the response was a deafening silence.

This may simply be a matter of an overworked and underpaid staff struggling to engage fully with the potential for greatness in its fields, combined with less-than-interested students who are lacking technical skills and the additional drive required for such endeavors. But it also might be a sign of the future of science in America.

"The United States has the worst educational system known to science. Our graduates compete regularly at the level of third world countries," said Dr. Michio Kaku, a theoretical physicist at City College of New York and co-founder of the string field theory, in an online interview. Kaku also explained how America's poor educational system is continuing to create a shortage of skilled workers for technology jobs, and instead are relying on importing workers from abroad.

In 2010, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development compared and ranked 65 countries' education systems in a study that tested numeracy, literacy and science knowledge. The study showed that the United States came in at number 17, beaten by China and Korea. Also

[See COLUMN Page 2]

ONLINE SLIDESHOW



Photos of the Week:
Surf's Up

These features and more can
be found in full @
www.lavalleystar.com

MONARCH BASEBALL



SEASON'S END

The Monarch baseball team ended its season Saturday in the first round of the playoffs. They were defeated in a three-game series against the Orange Coast College Pirates.

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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TRANSFER

Continued from page 1

colleges. Andres Cunningham, an alumnus of Whittier College in California, chose a private university for its smaller, more intimate classrooms and the opportunity to be involved on campus beyond the student level.

"I could have gotten a great education anywhere," said Cunningham, "... but I wanted something more. You can bond with your peers and join clubs, but being able to talk with professors—even eat with them at the same table—made me feel

like I was more than a number."

For Cunningham, the college experience cannot be decided by cost. He thinks students with good academic standings can find assistance through a myriad of sources that will only enhance the feeling of being supported by a community.

"Everybody knew my name," said Cunningham. "I still live in the area, and I've created friendships that are truly priceless. To be honest, I paid very little because the college was very gracious with scholarships and grants—so long as I kept my end up and did well in class."

CLUB DAY

Continued from page 1

the games were awarded with an unlimited amount of attempts and free candy.

"This is a great way to get people involved," said Gabriel Ayon, the president of the Political Action Coalition. "We do things like this to get people to come out and interact with everyone else."

In addition to the different clubs that came out to show

support on spirit day, Valley's Career/Transfer Center had a station of its own.

The Counseling office also had one of its representatives, counselor Michael Gold, give information to students who had questions.

"I think any chance we get to do outreach to students we like to take advantage of it," said Gold. "This is an organized day when people are available and students know to come to the tables to ask

questions."

Along with notifying students about the cancellation of the summer session, Gold reminded students to register for the fall semester and stressed the importance of making student plans.

"This is a great day to remind students of the changes that are happening," said Gold. "I think if we just randomly did this, we would not get the same response."



CLUB DAY - Students gathered in Monarch Square last week during club day to take part in activities and gain information on transferring.

HUNGER STRIKE

Continued from page 1

The students have vowed to strike until their demands are met. Though the union has not endorsed their protest, they are clearly on the side of the strikers.

"We absolutely would hope that the chancellor would come to his senses and talk to these students and put some thought into their demands," said Ferguson.

"I think they would be wise to at least talk with these folks and see what they have to say."

Fallis said that the chancellor has already met with students and explained that their demands are misguided. The alleged pay increase for university presidents would only apply to newly hired executives. Current presidents have been subject to a pay freeze since 2007, and there are no plans for that to change; nor are there immediate plans to raise tuition

fees.

While the CSU system cannot force students to end the hunger strike, administrators are hopeful that students will find a less dangerous way to protest.

"We strongly encourage any CSU employee who is an advisor or financial supporter of these students to encourage the students to exercise their voice," said Fallis, "but to do so in a way that doesn't put them at academic or health risk."

COLUMN

Continued from page 1

in 2010, the National Academies—the leading U.S. advisory group on science and technology—found that more than half of all college science students change majors before completing their degrees.

Science instructors who are able to turn dry lecture notes into a high-definition show with all the bells and whistles will inspire their students to fully engage in the subject and participate in activities that reward thinking outside the box. Those instructors have succeeded in the most precious task of teaching: sowing a seed of knowledge and watching it grow.

"I do not want to stand in front of eighth graders and say, 'Who wants to be an aerospace engineer and design an airplane 15 percent more fuel efficient?' That's not going to get them," said Neil deGrasse Tyson, an astrophysicist and research associate at the American Museum of Natural History.

"But if I say, 'Who wants to be an engineer and design the airfoil that will fly in the rarified atmosphere of Mars?' I'm going to get the best students in the class," said deGrasse Tyson, "because that's an exciting project for smart people to work on, motivated people to work on. And when you have them, they invent stuff. They discover things. They transform the culture in which we live."

Unless faculty and students rise to the occasion and engage in science experiments, such as the X-Prize, there may well be very little scientific progress on the horizon. The American scientific community will see itself passed by nations that may have been considered lacking, but at least have a clear understanding of what it takes to inspire their students to strive for innovation and experimentation.

E-mail ANNE CHRISTENSEN at a.christensen@lavalleystar.com. Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com.

Orange Line safety begins with you.

Metro is now testing buses along the four-mile extension of the Metro Orange Line, near Canoga Av between Victory Bl and Devonshire St.

Please be alert and use extra care at all Orange Line crossings:

- > Obey all street signage and road markings
- > Never run a red light – Metro operates photo enforcement cameras at every crossing
- > Watch for flashing signs that indicate a bus is coming
- > Observe the "Keep Clear" zone at crossings
- > Make sure you turn onto a street—never onto the busway
- > Never drive, walk or bike on the busway
- > Use the designated bike path when riding along the busway
- > When turning left across the busway, watch for vehicles in both directions
- > Do not make a right turn on a red light
- > Never try to beat an Orange Line bus across an intersection
- > Always use crosswalks
- > Wait for the "Walk" signal before entering the crosswalk—never jaywalk across the busway



Metro

For more safety tips, visit metro.net/molextension.

ASU HOLDS FINAL MEETING OF SPRING

The ASU held its final meeting Tuesday, highlighting the importance of student governance.

EDYTHE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

There was sentiment in the air Tuesday for the final meeting of the Associated Student Union's Executive Council. The vast majority of officers and commissioners met to take photos for the ASU magazine's third and final issue, followed by reports that expressed appreciation and warm regards for everyone in attendance.

"It's bittersweet as you end your term here," said President Norvan Berkezyan. "This entire experience has been great. I've learned a lot, and you come out different in the end."

Vice President Eduard Grigoryan joined the President by encouraging officers and commis-

sioners to stay in touch and stay involved in affairs at Valley and at new institutions for those anticipating transfers in the fall. In addition to working relationships within the Executive Council, Grigoryan also left a reminder that plans should be drafted to present to incoming ASU members to establish a stronger relationship between the Executive Council and Inter-Club Council.

The board has seen a flux of new members throughout the year, and the early departures of officers and commissioners have been an adjustment—including the addition of Raquel Sanchez as advisor. Although Sanchez could not remark on the progress of the council compared to the beginning of the semester, she did express appreciation for the council's assistance during her initiation.

"I came in without knowledge of all the details," said Sanchez, "... and you guys really helped guide me through the process."

Also present at the meeting was Student Trustee Brandon Batham,

who addressed the council to give key information on developments within the district. According to Batham, several trustees and presidents from colleges within the LACCD are holding preliminary discussions on tuition increases and the possibility of revisiting tuition proposals made by Santa Monica College earlier this year.

"Even if you look at our newspaper here at Valley, you can see that there are people who support that and want to get things done," said Batham.

Like the council, Batham also remarked on the ASU's diligence and success this semester. He stated that after visiting every board in the LACCD, Valley's student union has been the "highest functioning" of them all—a statement that was not to be taken lightly.

"We may disagree on a lot of things," said Batham, "...but one thing we all agree on is working for the students."



SAYING GOODBYE - Vice President Eduard Grigoyan (right) talked about past meetings, congratulated every member and thanked them for their friendship. He also told the members he wanted to continue the friendships outside of campus.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

SPECIAL FEATURE

WHY JOURNALISM IS IMPORTANT

Journalism remains as important to the well-being and education of society as ever despite the news business continuing its tumultuous transformation from print to multimedia.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Journalism is important because it connects the dots of an expanding and confusing world. Reporters gather a deluge of data, translate the technical or academic language and present the facts in a digestible way, including both sides of the same coin. These facts paint a complete picture that enables the readers to make informed decisions to govern their lives.

Journalism today includes so much more than the printed words of past generations. News is delivered via social media, audio, video and the Web, as well as being printed on paper. These new demands, and readers who gravitate toward information bites delivered in 140 characters or less, have turned journalism on its head. But despite the turmoil this fact remains: there are plenty of important stories left, and it's our duty as reporters to go out there and tell them.

On a good day, journalism is about exposing the truth that the public is entitled to and deserves to know. Whether it's the New York Times' Danny Hakim exposing abuse and negligence that resulted in the death of a 13-year-old autistic boy placed in a state institution for the developmentally disabled, or the L.A. Times' Gale Holland and Michael Finnegan exposing fraud, nepotism and poor workmanship in their six-part community college construction series.

On a bad day, journalism is untrustworthy and sensationalized. The recent phone-tapping scandal that brought down the British tabloid News of the World brought shame on those involved and the profession in general. The proliferation of celebrity-news aggregator TMZ, with its jarring camerawork and confrontational reporting style, draws in readers like moths to a flame despite a complete lack of integrity or substance.

Despite some rotten apples in the bunch, professional and citizen reporters'

journalistic contribution to world events is significant. Social and cultural changes, like the Arab Spring in Syria, have been covered by a merger of social media and news reporting. Shining a light on the suffering of our fellow man, despite being thousands of miles away in a world that is unknown to us, has opened the floodgates of support and political goodwill.

Journalism is about getting closer to the truth of what is happening in the world, and holding the powers that be accountable for their actions. With each new generation of political and financial power players comes the potential for greatness and failures. Journalism will always be there; reporters are the watchdogs that never sleep.

Journalism has a very basic function: to tell the truth. As the Fourth Estate, it strives to defend the rights of the people by informing the public about societal truths.

KEVIN JERSEY
STAFF WRITER

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ensures the most basic American freedoms, and among these is the freedom of the press. The founders of this country recognized that a free press is

necessary for the survival of a nation and its government. Many things have changed in the two centuries since, but that has not. Journalism remains a vitally essential cog in the machine that is the United States, serving to shine a light into every dark corner and expose the truth.

Standing beside the three branches of government is the press, also called the Fourth Estate. Journalists do not make or enforce the laws, but they do something equally important—they tell the truth. They spread knowledge. And, knowledge is the most valuable commodity anyone can have. It is power. It is both a weapon and a shield. Knowledge enables people to recognize tyranny and to fight against it.

Much of what the press reports is disposable information. Sports scores, weather reports and police blotters have little real effect on the lives of Americans or the country itself. But, reporting this information has built a foundation of trust between journalists and their readers so that when important events do occur, they know where to turn. The press is the eyes and ears for a public that would otherwise be deaf and blind.

And even when the press is corrupted

“Journalism—real journalism—is about cutting through all the spin to get to the truth.”

and turned into a generator of propaganda for one cause or another, independent journalists are there to refute the lies and hold them accountable. The world today has an abundance of information, and journalism has become more about spinning the facts than the facts themselves. This strains the limits of the trust that the press has worked so hard to establish. But journalism—real journalism—is about cutting through all the spin to get to the truth. People have a right to know when they are being lied to, and it is the job of the press to tell them.

The world can be an ugly place, and it is natural to want to hide the ugliness behind misinformation. But, every deception that is allowed to slide by uncontested opens the gate for others to follow. For this reason, there is no such thing as a big story or a small story. There is only the truth. And journalism is the vessel that carries this truth out into the world.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MAGGIE HASBUN | VALLEY STAR

CUTTING TO THE BONE

CUTS HAVE CONSEQUENCES, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Students will likely suffer from reduced job prospects for the rest of their lives.

KEVIN JERSEY

For most young people, the plan has always been simple: go to college, graduate and find a career. Thanks to budget cuts and a state government that appears to not care about its students, plans have changed for many Californians and in ways they may have never expected.

The immediate effects of these cuts are obvious. Students are well aware that their tuition has gone up and that class registration has gotten much more difficult. What they may not know is that in addition to increasing fees, universities have taken direct action to limit enrollment. As a result, fewer people are attending college and fewer people are finding careers in a job market where an estimated 60 percent of jobs will soon require some post-secondary education.

These findings are detailed in a report from the Public Policy Institute of California that offers a grim outlook for the current generation of prospective college students. More and more high-school graduates are applying to state universities, yet fewer are actually enrolling. While about 22 percent of all state graduates enrolled at either University of California or California State University campuses as recently as 2008, today that number has dropped below 18 percent.

This drop is partly due to increased tuition. As rates go up, fewer students are either able to afford or willing to pay the higher fees. But, much of the decrease is due to newly adopted university policies that seek to offset decreased budgets by accepting fewer students.

Historically, about half of qualifying students who applied to the UC system were admitted to either Berkeley or UCLA. Now, only 27 percent of students are admitted to these campuses, with the rest being referred to other branches. Although three-quarters of these rejected students choose to either attend a private school or enroll in the CSU system, one of every 10 of those not accepted to the campus of their choice decide to not attend college at all.

Similarly, the CSU system has raised enrollment criteria at its most in-demand campuses. This has enabled the schools to accept fewer students from outside the area immediately surrounding them. While they turned away fewer than 4,000 eligible applicants in 2008, almost 15,000 were rejected just two years later.

These new policies have resulted in a loss of 20,000 students at state universities since 2007. This is disastrous as they enter a job market in which more than half of recent college graduates are either unemployed or underemployed, according to the Economic Policy Institute. Many are forced to take jobs that do not require degrees, squeezing out those who have not graduated.

The PPIC has offered a simple solution to this ongoing crisis: increase state funding for higher education—a proposal that is supported by 68 percent of Californians. Yet education spending has fallen by \$1.6 billion over the past decade. By refusing to reverse these cuts, the state government is handicapping students, keeping many of them out of college and condemning them to a lifetime of job uncertainty.

E-mail KEVIN JERSEY at k.jersey@lavalleystar.com. Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com.

VALLEY VIEW | DO YOU THINK EMPLOYERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ACCESS YOUR FACEBOOK ACCOUNT?



No. You are mixing business with your personal life. Do they want to see you drunk every weekend?

-SCOTT TORREY,
PHYSICAL THERAPY



"I don't think they should be going through your personal life and judging you."

-JOSEPHINE KOCHOO,
BROADCASTING



"I don't think so because that's your life and not a job. It's stalking."

-GREYDY CORTEZ,
LIBERAL ARTS



"Yeah. They should know what kind of person you are outside of work ... if you are a modern person or a stoner."

-TIM VRANAU,
GENERAL STUDIES



"No because it's personal ... People post photos of them partying. That is their privacy."

-BRITTNEY DAVIS,
NURSING

COMPILED BY JD OROYE | VALLEY STAR

EMPLOYERS ABUSE SOCIAL MEDIA TO INFRINGE ON JOBSEEKERS' RIGHTS, INVADE THEIR PRIVACY

The continued popularity of social media has provided employers with an additional, unregulated tool for screening the private lives of jobseekers.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
STAFF WRITER

The fierce competition for jobs has revealed some employers' dirty trick to select who gets a foot in the door of their companies by asking jobseekers to reveal passwords to social media sites like Facebook. Employers then use this exceptional invasion of privacy as a screening tool for deciding who to hire for an open position.

Social media is not a new phenomenon, but what is new is the brazen attempt by employers to gain detailed insight into the private lives of jobseekers. There is no law prohibiting employers asking for passwords to social media accounts, even though Facebook has stated that giving out such privileged information breaks the terms of use for its website.

Several laws make it illegal for an employer to ask about age, marital status or pregnancy, citizenship, disability, drug use, smoking or drinking, religious beliefs and race. Employers may still attempt to indirectly inquire about these off-limit topics, but doing so is a clear violation of anti-discriminatory laws, according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

When former Maryland corrections officer Robert Collins was asked to re-interview for a job after a leave of absence, Collins was asked for his social media passwords so the interviewer could look for incriminating pictures of gang affiliation. Collins reluctantly agreed, according to Mercury News, but later filed a lawsuit with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Maryland may become the first state to outright ban the practice of employers snooping in the private lives of jobseekers after passing legislation prohibiting employers "... from asking current and prospective employees for their usernames and passwords to websites such as Facebook and Twitter," according to the Baltimore Sun. In California,

state Sen. Leland Yee is considering taking similar action.

Needing a job in a tough economy may be enough for job candidates to practically hand over the keys to their front door to convince prospective employers that they are indeed the right candidates for the job. Refusing to divulge social media passwords or answer prohibited questions during a job interview is unfortunately likely to result in rejection.

As students graduate college and start looking for work, the odds of being confronted by requests for passwords is high. According to Tony Morrison of Mashable Social Media, the best way to deal with the situation is to politely inquire about the relevance of one's social life and online profile to the job require-

ments. Depending on the answer, students may then decide if working for such an invasive and micro-managing company is in their best interests.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editorinchief@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

MAY

Wednesday, 16

Student Educational Plan (SEP) Workshop
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Counseling Department
Engineering 104
(818) 947-2647

Thursday, 17

Performance Workshop
11:20 a.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Music Department
Music 106
(818) 778-5633

Student Educational Plan (SEP) Workshop
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Counseling Department
Emergency Services Training 103
(818) 947-2647

Opening Reception - LAVC Student Art Show 2012
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Sponsored LAVC Art Department
LAVC Art Gallery
(818) 778-5536

"NUTS" by Tom Topor
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Department of the Theater Arts
LAVC Horseshoe Theater
(818) 947-2352

Friday, 18

Scholarship Ceremony
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Associated Student Union and PreMed Club
Fireside Room
(818) 947-2880

LAVC Guitar Ensemble
7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Music Department
Music 106
(818) 778-5633

! THINK TRANSFER

MAY

Wednesday, 16

CSUN Peer Mentor
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Undecided Major/Career Workshop
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursday, 17

UCLA Representative
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Applied to UC, What's Next? Workshop
Noon - 1 p.m.

Friday, 20

UCSB Bus Trip
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

All activities are held in the Career/Transfer Center in Administration 126 unless otherwise indicated.

Hours for the Career/Transfer Center are Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Career/Transfer Center assists students seeking to continue studies for those transferring to a four-year school or university, to obtain an AA degree or enroll in certificate programs.

For appointments and further information, call (818) 947-2646.

For more information, also visit www.lavc.edu/transfer.

VALLEY'S GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE LGBTQ WEEK GIVES A VOICE TO THE TRANSGENDER

More than 50 people listened on Thursday to transgender speakers from the LGBTQ community.

COURTNEY BASSLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

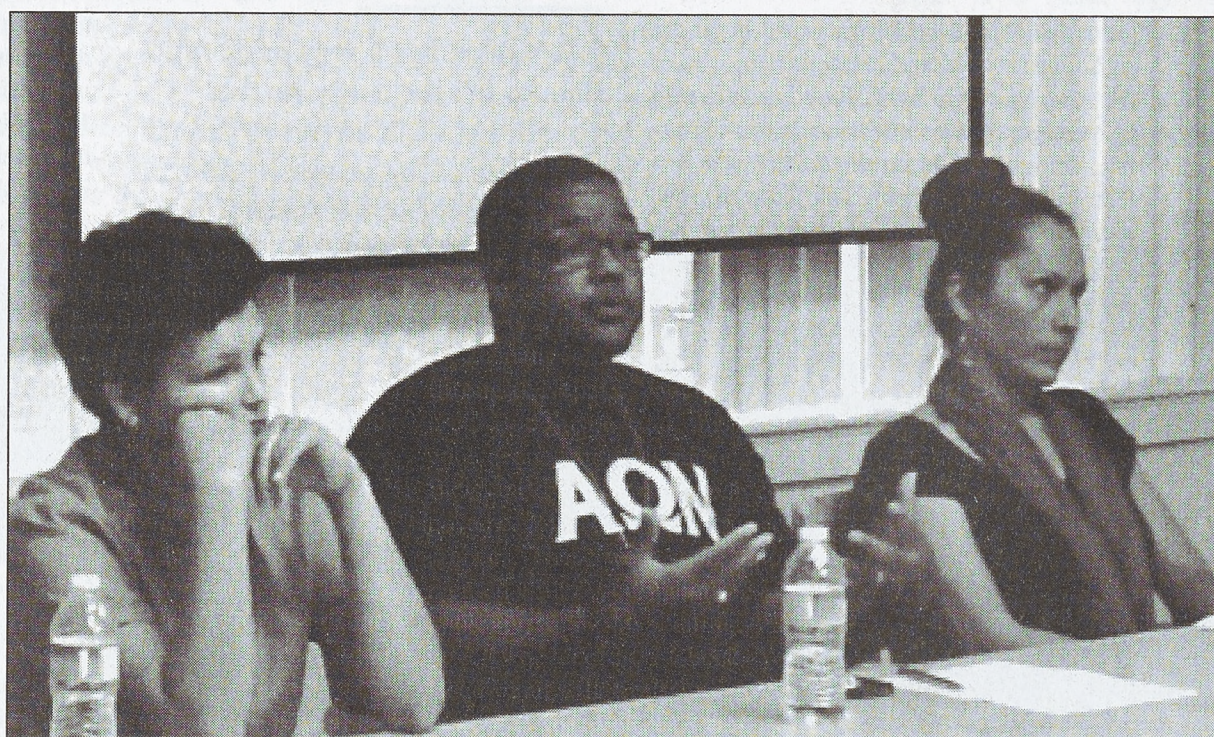
Valley College's Gay-Straight Alliance "Trans Speaker" event was standing room only in the Faculty Lounge Thursday afternoon, bringing more than 50 students to listen to those representing the "T" in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Questioning community.

Throughout the week, Valley's GSA club had various activities, from a movie screening of "Pariah" to crafts on campus to promote its LGBTQ week.

"This event for most of us is the crème de la crème," said sociology instructor and moderator of the GSA club, Tiffany Lanoix. "We want this to be a club that brings awareness to these topics."

The club prepared questions, and GSA Interclub Club Council Representative Sergio Garnica served as the moderator for the question-and-answer session.

According to the American Psychological Association, "trans-



GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE UNITES - Members of Valley College's GSA club attend a "Trans Speaker" event with transgender speakers Adrian Mateos, Jaye Johnson and Michelle Enfield on Thursday in the faculty lounge during the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning week.

gender is an umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression, or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth."

Students heard about various topics in the afternoon session—from hormone replacement therapy to stories of coming out to friends and family and what students can do to help, such as being an ally to those making a transition from

male to female or female to male.

The three transgender speakers for Thursday's question-and-answer session were Adrian Mateos, Michelle Enfield and Jaye Johnson. Johnson, now legally a male, is married to a bisexual woman. He educated the group that even though his wife is bisexual, it was still a nerve-racking process for him.

"I was probably the most nervous about sharing that informa-

tion with my wife," he said. "It was a pretty smooth transition, but I know that it's not like that for our transgender brothers and sisters."

The process of changing to the recognized sex for a transgender includes taking hormone replacements. For many, the transition—as it was called in the session—is a bit hard to explain to loved ones. Johnson explained that there are four steps that he went through in the transition process: mental,

social, physical and legal.

Although Mateos, the youngest of the speakers, is still physically and legally female and has not started hormone replacement therapy yet, he sees himself as a male and will eventually start the transition. While he is coming out to his family and friends, he credits technology as a step that helped him.

"It started with a name change on Facebook," Mateos explained. "I had lots of questions, but I could pick which ones I [wanted to] answer."

One of Garnica's last questions was how people can help with the understanding of coming out. Enfield said the best thing to do is to be supportive and find a group that loves no matter what.

"Follow your gut," she said. "The beauty of being human is that we get to evolve. There are plenty of support systems, whether or not your family ... members are supportive of you. There's always a family somewhere."

Political science major Tessa Bohling, who heard about the event from Lanoix—her sociology instructor—found the session and platform enlightening and informative.

"It's a great way to step in someone else's shoes for an hour or two and learn," she said.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

• NATIONALLY, 10 PERCENT OF MEN AND 10 PERCENT OF WOMEN 18 TO 44 CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE SOMETHING OTHER THAN HETEROSEXUAL.

• ACCORDING TO FBI HATE CRIME STATISTICS, THERE WERE 6,604 REPORTED HATE CRIMES IN 2009.

• THERE ARE CURRENTLY OVER 700 LGBTQ CLUBS AND GROUPS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES NATIONWIDE.

• UP TO 1 PERCENT OF THE U.S. POPULATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS TRANSSEXUAL.

• CURRENTLY, 1 MILLION AMERICAN CHILDREN ARE BEING RAISED BY SAME-SEX COUPLES.

FACTS TAKEN FROM DOSOMETHING.ORG

BEASTIE BOYS LOSES TRANSFORMATIONAL BAND MEMBER

Beastie Boy Adam Yauch was instrumental in the evolution of the group as the Beastie Boys turned from brats to activists.

KEVIN JERSEY
STAFF WRITER

When the Beastie Boys rose to fame with the release of "Licensed to Ill," it would have been inconceivable that three bratty rappers who spit rhymes about beer and women would grow into ambassadors of peace and love. The catalyst was Adam Yauch, better known as MCA, who died Friday, May 4, after a three-year fight with cancer.

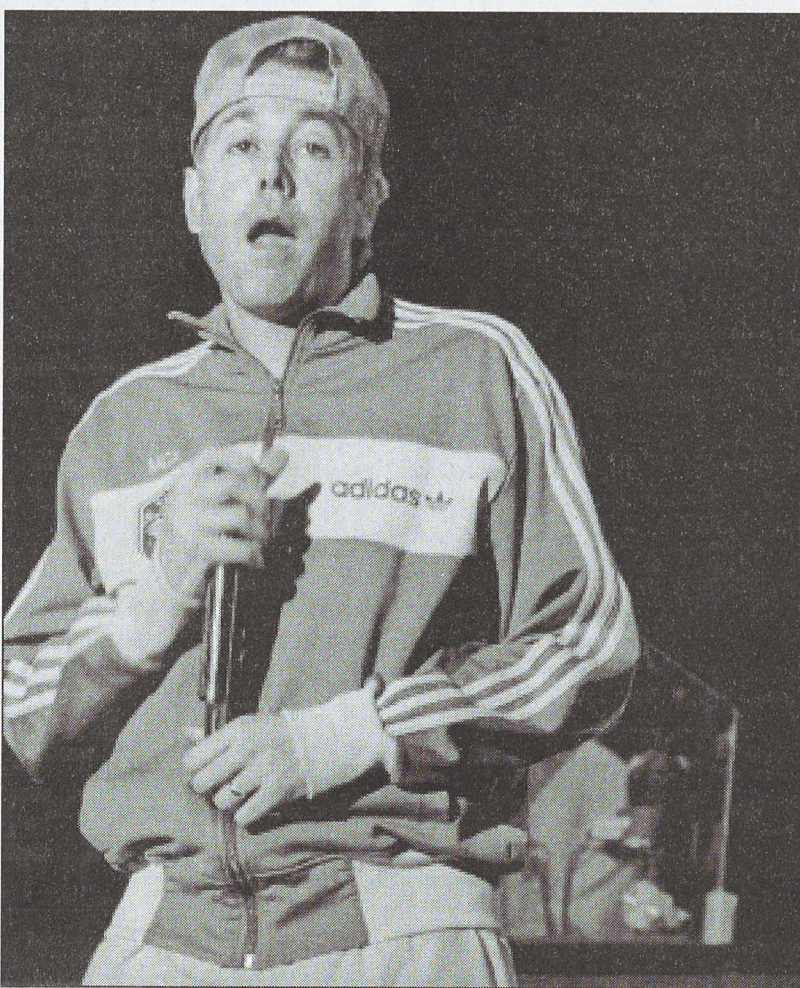
The Beastie Boys evolved musically and spiritually over the years. The group's early sound featured classic rock riffs and was credited for winning over an audience that had been slow to embrace rap. Its debut album was the first rap album to reach No. 1 on the Billboard chart in 1986, due to the crossover appeal of the hit single, "(You Gotta) Fight for Your Right (to Party)" and its video parodying drunken frat-boy behavior.

According to Yauch, the song was "a joke that went too far ... the strangest part about it was that after a short time I think we actually became just what it was that we'd set out to make fun of."

The Beastie Boys rejected the sound and image associated with

its first record, re-emerging with "Paul's Boutique." The album was not a hit but became a critical favorite, helping popularize the process of sampling; Rolling Stone commented that it "ambitiously stitches together song fragments in a way rarely seen before or since."

During a snowboarding trip through Nepal, Yauch discovered Buddhism, and this influence seeped into his music. Most Beastie Boys lyrics had been composed of jokes and pop culture references. These were soon supplemented with rhymes about respect and spiritual awakening. The next two records, "Check Your Head" and "Ill Communication," featured songs like "Namaste" and "Boddhisatva Vow," reflect-



CHRIS GRAYTHEN | GETTY IMAGES

ing Buddhist beliefs. The single "Sure Shot" showed evidence of Yauch's remarkable transformation.

While early songs featured misogynistic lyrics, he now rapped, "I want to say a little something that's long overdue/ The disrespect to women has got to be through/ To all the mothers and the sisters and the wives and friends/ I want to offer my love and respect to the end."

Continuing its evolution, the group now played instruments on many songs, with Yauch on bass. The band incorporated funk, jazz and hardcore punk into its signature sound, finding a new alternative-rock audience.

MCA began the next chapter of his life as a philanthropist and activist. He organized the

Tibetan Freedom Concerts, which raised millions of dollars for the Free Tibet movement. Yauch made headlines for his statements at MTV's 1998 Video Music Awards, condemning the bombing of Iraq and American racism toward Arabs. Last fall, though weakened by cancer treatments, Yauch was seen marching with protesters at Occupy Wall Street.

Yauch continued to make music, even after being diagnosed with a cancerous parotid gland in 2009, and the Beastie Boys was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last month. MCA was too sick to attend the ceremony and died just a few weeks later. But, his legacy lives on with all the fans he entertained and enlightened over the years.

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FOOD REVIEW



SWEET FROZATO - Hugo's Tacos offers delicious homemade, non-dairy soft serve-like frozen dessert in a cup or cone in three flavors: chocolate, vanilla or swirl for \$2.53.

HUGO'S TACOS FEEDS STUDENTS' BUDGETS

A healthy alternative taco stand in Studio City fills stomachs and keeps wallets full.

COURTNEY BASSLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Less than a 5-minute drive from Valley College and nestled beside the 101 freeway and caddy corner to the sit-down restaurant Hugo's on Coldwater Canyon and Riverside Drive is Hugo's Tacos, a taco stand serving a modern and healthy spin on Mexican classics on a student budget.

Hugo's Tacos is more than just the run-of-the-mill taco stand. It places an emphasis on gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian options and has many choices with more than 15 menu items.

The stand not only serves classic filling options, but also other alternatives such as soy chorizo and grilled veggies. Most restaurants up the price for vegan and vegetarian substitutions, but Hugo's Tacos' animal-friendly choices are affordable at \$2.59 per taco.

The taco stand inspires customers to try different types of tacos, starting with the shell. There are two options for the taco shell: crispy or soft corn. The tacos are served with onions, cilantro, a choice of salsa and a filling that includes chicken, soy chorizo, mixed veggies, steak, grilled fish or one of two pork fillings: carnitas or al pastor—pork with Indian spices. The better option, juicier and with more flavor, is the carnitas.

The next big decision is which salsa to choose. For a balance of sweet

and spicy, go with the honey chipotle salsa. This one is the go-to for many diners. The honey chipotle salsa is on the milder side of the seven salsas available. Another great option is the salsa negra for a smoky and spicy taste.

Hugo's Tacos also serves breakfast options such as breakfast burritos, quesadillas and bowls. The breakfast burrito is served with eggs, onions, cilantro, organic Spanish rice, organic white beans, breakfast salsa, Oaxaca cheese and a choice of a filling. It will satisfy any appetite and can easily be shared by two people. The breakfast salsa is on the mild side, so for those who like a kick, make sure to add some hot sauce. The eggs and the cheese pair well with the organic beans and rice, filling an empty stomach to start the day.

For dessert, the frozato is a sweet treat. The frozato, served in a cup or cone, is a non-dairy soft-serve option for \$2.53 with a flavor choice of chocolate, vanilla or a swirl. The soft-serve yogurt will have one believing they are eating classic ice cream even though it is a gluten-free recipe. This is a perfect treat for a warm night.

Hugo's Tacos uses its social media sites, such as Twitter and Facebook, to reward its followers with deals, often announcing a secret word for customers to give the cashier when purchasing food to receive a discount. Some items have included half-price burritos at nighttime or \$3 breakfast burritos for the earlier diners.

Hugo's Tacos is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and has two locations: Studio City and Glendale. The local taco stand is at 4749 Coldwater Canyon Ave., Studio City.



GOOD MORNING - At Hugo's Tacos, one can buy a breakfast burrito for less than \$5; from 10 to 11 a.m., it costs \$3. Wrapped in a fat burrito is a filling of scrambled eggs, onions and cilantro, organic Spanish rice, organic white beans, breakfast salsa and Oaxaca cheese. For a few bucks more, steaks, carnitas, al pastor or grilled fish can be added. For vegetarians, the taco stand has the options of soy chorizo and grilled vegetables.

DVD REVIEW

ANIMATED "THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY" STARTS NEW ADVENTURE WITH DVD RELEASE

Disney and Studio Ghibli's film "The Secret World of Arrietty" will be available May 22 for purchase.

ARIEL WAITKUWEIT
COPY EDITOR

Whereas feather pens are the norm for old-fashioned "bean" writing, "borrowers" adorn their ink pens with dragonfly wings in "The Secret World of Arrietty," a movie leading to a hidden world with its Tuesday, May 22 Blu-ray combo pack and DVD release.

The upcoming release's cover illustrates a borrower, or little person, named Arrietty carrying a spoon containing a sugar cube while a bean, or human, named Shawn observes her in the background. It also features English, Japanese and French audios; English subtitles, English subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing, and French subtitles; and multiple bonus features.

The Blu-ray bonus features include the original Japanese trailers and storyboards, music videos from featured artists Cécile Corbel and Bridgit Mender, and the making of "Summertime"—the featured music video from Mender, who also voices borrower Arrietty.

In a Walt Disney Pictures interview, Mender said the Japanese version's plot and animated presentation's beauties are what inspired her to star in the one in English.

"I loved seeing that, and I thought that it was just a wonderful part to have," she said in the interview. "It's so different than normal opportunities. I really wanted to go for it."

The filmic renditions resulted, in major part, from "Spirited Away" director Hayao Miyazaki's 40-plus years of enchantment with Mary Norton's novel "The Borrowers," according to an L.A. Times article. The Japanese Studio Ghibli-produced film was directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi and then handed to Gary Rydstrom for the Disney Pictures version while Miyazaki did the Japanese edition's script and Karey Kirkpatrick worked on the English version.

“While a typical spoon's handle fits snugly between the human thumb and index finger, borrowers must wrap a whole hand around the handle of that same spoon almost twice their height.”

According to Visual Hollywood, Kirkpatrick jumped on the script after the English version's producers, Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall, invited him to write.

"I've been a fan of Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli's work for a long time," he said in the article, "so I said yes, I would love to do the job."

The film's attention to detail, which carefully juxtaposes object sizes between humans and borrowers, gives viewers an understanding of how small borrower Arrietty and the rest of her people are in comparison to Shawn and the other beans.

While a typical spoon's handle fits snugly between the human thumb and index finger, borrowers must wrap a whole hand around the handle of that same spoon almost twice their height. These little people are also small enough that masking tape can support their whole bodies as they climb—something tape cannot do for humans.

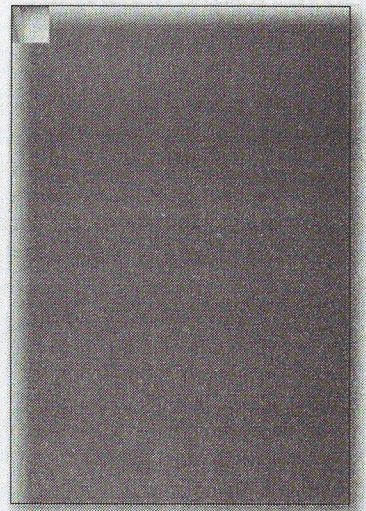
The film, which was released in U.S. theaters Feb. 17, collected \$6.4 million during its opening weekend and gathered a gross of \$19.1 million in the United States alone, according to Box Office Mojo. As far as the worldwide total, the movie earned \$145.5 million.

As with all theater films turned into at-home editions, "The Secret World of Arrietty" is now available for pre-ordering, both for die-hard fans eager to own the movie as well as for those who were unable to see it in theaters.

For more information regarding the pre-ordering or release of the Blu-ray combo pack and DVD, visit <http://disney.go.com/arrietty/>.

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OPENING THIS WEEKEND



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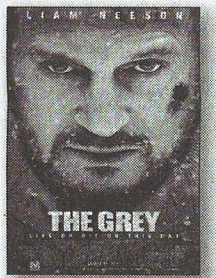
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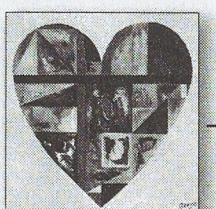


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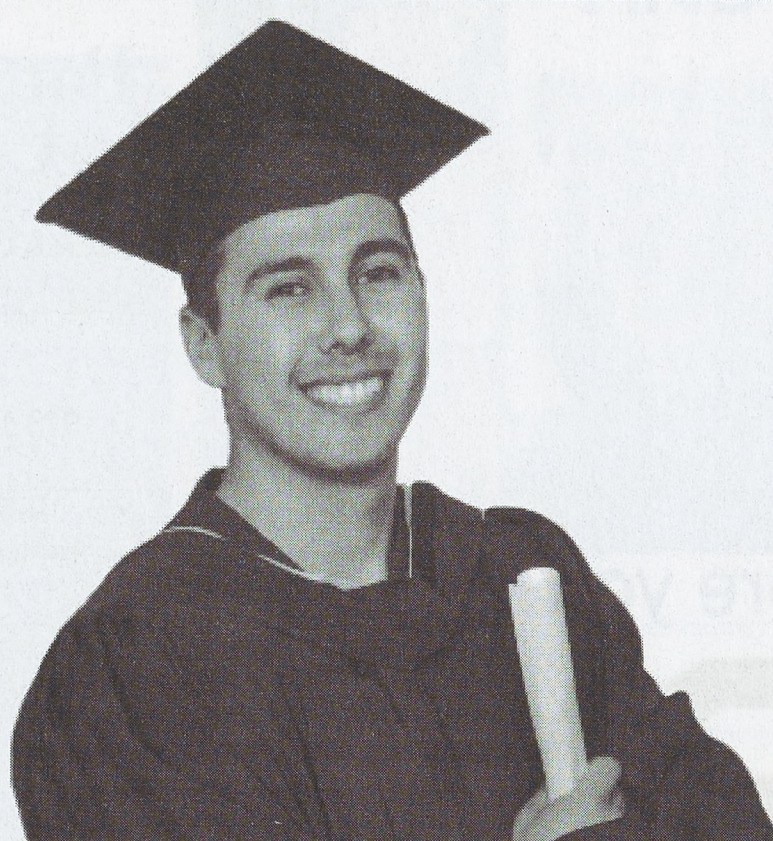
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MONARCHS COME UP SHORT IN FIRST ROUND OF PLAYOFFS

Despite losing in the first round of playoffs, two Valley sophomore starters were selected for the Southern Division First Team.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Monarchs baseball team ended the season with a 20-19 record after losing a three-game series to No. 1 seed Orange Coast College in the Southern California Regional Playoffs.

Valley College trailed the Pirates 4-0 going into the ninth inning of the first game of the series. The Monarchs rallied together and hit three consecutive singles that loaded the bases for outfielder Bryce Kelly. Kelly hit a triple to left center field that brought in three runs for the Monarchs.

Valley's designated hitter Nathan Mendez continued the offensive attack, hitting another base hit to Pirates shortstop Joel Licon, who misplayed the ball, allowing Kelly to score the tying run. The game went into extra innings where Orange Coast scored two more runs, ending the game with a 6-5 victory over the Monarchs for the Pirates.

"This first game we showed we could compete with anyone," said Valley coach Dave Mallas. "It's a long season, and anytime you make the playoffs it's a good season."

Going into the second game of the series, the Monarchs trailed Orange Coast 1-0 early

on. Valley tied the game at one in the fourth, but the Pirates answered back and scored four runs in the fifth.

As the game progressed, Orange Coast continued an offensive attack by adding four more runs to extend the lead 9-1, securing the second win of the series.

"It was a nice response to the late-inning drama we had on Saturday," said Orange Coast coach John Altobelli. "Our pitchers were dominant, and the offense made some adjustments and had better approaches at the plate."

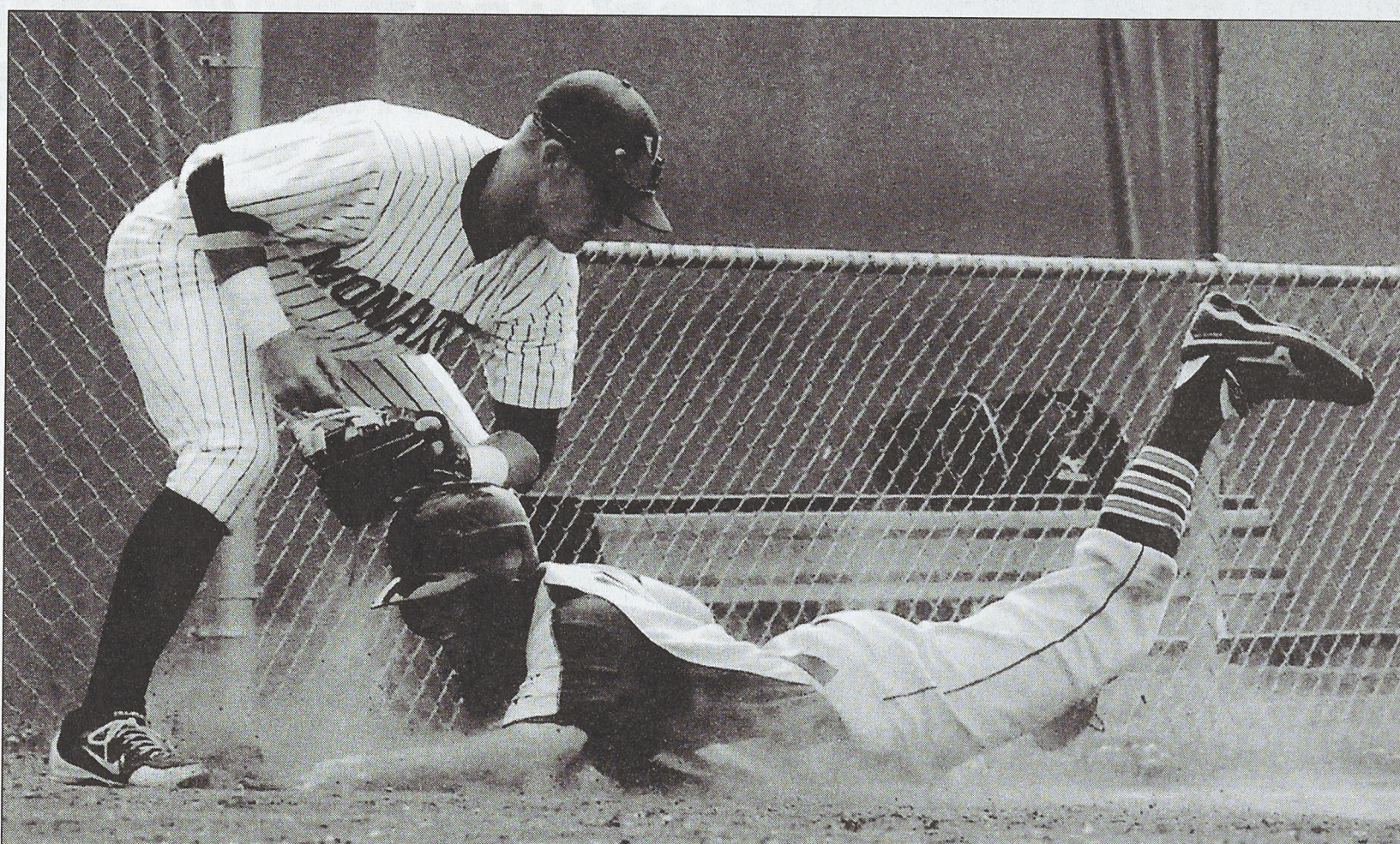
Going into the playoffs, the Monarchs had to make adjustments to both the offense and defense as outfielder Ariel Adut was out due to injury.

"I think missing Ariel in the lineup really hurt us," said Mallas. "He had some big at-bats this season."

Valley ended the season second in the Western State Conference with a 13-8 record. Both pitcher David Armas and second baseman Casey Ryan were elected to the Southern Division First Team.

Armas was a two-year starter for the Monarchs and ended the season with a 9-3 record. The right-hander 3.36 ERA in 96 innings of work, and was a unanimous selection for the Southern Division First Team.

"I can't say enough good things about David," said Mallas. "He has been a starter for two years and earned every bit of that. He's going to be a tough guy to replace."



MISSED THE TAG - In the third inning against Citrus College, Monarch third-basemen Eric Folkers missed an out at third base. The Monarchs lost the game 1-0 Thursday April 26.

Ryan, who led the state with 37 stolen bases in 40 at-bats, led the Monarch offense this season. He held a .333 batting average with 56 and 16 RBI's in addition to scoring 40 runs.

Seven of the Monarchs sophomore starters will not be joining them next season.

"I thought our sophomores did a good job of leading by example this year," said Mallas. "I'm proud of the way our guys ended the season."

THE BEGINNING AND THE END: A LOOK BACK AT 2011-2012 SEASON:

FIRST 10 GAMES:

VS.	SCORE
MT. SAC	6-5 (L)
CERRITOS	2-1 (W)
CERRITOS	11-10 (L)
HARBOR	9-8 (W)
CERRITOS	6-5 (W)
ELAC	6-4 (L)
CERRITOS	11-6 (L)
HARBOR	9-6 (W)
GOLDEN WEST	9-1 (L)
PALOMAR	2-1 (W)

LAST 10 GAMES:

VS.	SCORE
MISSION	7-1 (W)
WEST L.A.	11-8 (W)
WEST L.A.	5-3 (W) (10 INNINGS)
CANYONS	12-3 (W)
CANYONS	7-6 (L)
CITRUS	3-0 (W)
CITRUS	1-0 (L)
BAKERSFIELD	5-2 (W)
ORANGE COAST	6-5 (L) (10 INNINGS)
ORANGE COAST	9-1 (L)



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POSSIBLE CORRELATION BETWEEN CONCUSSIONS AND SUICIDE

THE UNDERLYING CONSEQUENCES OF CONCUSSIONS

The recent death of a former San Diego Chargers linebacker leads the public, health professionals and sports players to question how detrimental football and other high-risk sports are to players' health.

With the recent addition of retired National Football League linebacker Junior Seau to the list of players who have died from apparent suicides, many people—especially researchers—question how much to attribute high-risk sports to these deaths.

According to USA Today, the 43 year old had more than 1,500 concussions over the course of his football career after one of his former teammates, Gary Plummer, calculated the number from statistics he attained during a 1990s concussion seminar and from his own experience as a linebacker.

"I had [more than] 1,000 in my 15 years," he told the San Jose Mercury News. "Junior played for 20 years. That's five concussions a game, easily."

Considering Plummer's four-digit estimate, many may wonder how detrimental traumatic brain injuries like concussions can be to a player over time.

"Repeated mild TBIs occurring over an extended period of time ... can result in cumulative neurological and cognitive deficits," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

These deficits include difficulties with concentration, memory and commu-

nication. Depression and personality changes are two other side effects. The CDC also states that mild TBIs recurring within a shorter time frame, such as hours or weeks as opposed to months or years, can be deadly.

Like Seau, former Bears defensive back Dave Duerson committed suicide last year when he shot himself in the chest; Duerson spared his brain for his family to donate for research.

Boston University School of Medicine researchers discovered that, like other athletes, Duerson suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy. Researchers, however, could not confirm if CTE had any relations to his suicide. What disconcerts people, though, is that Duerson was not the only football player with CTE to have committed suicide.

According to ABC News, "Several former NFL players have committed suicide in recent years, and many experts believe the deaths could be related to repeated blows to the head."

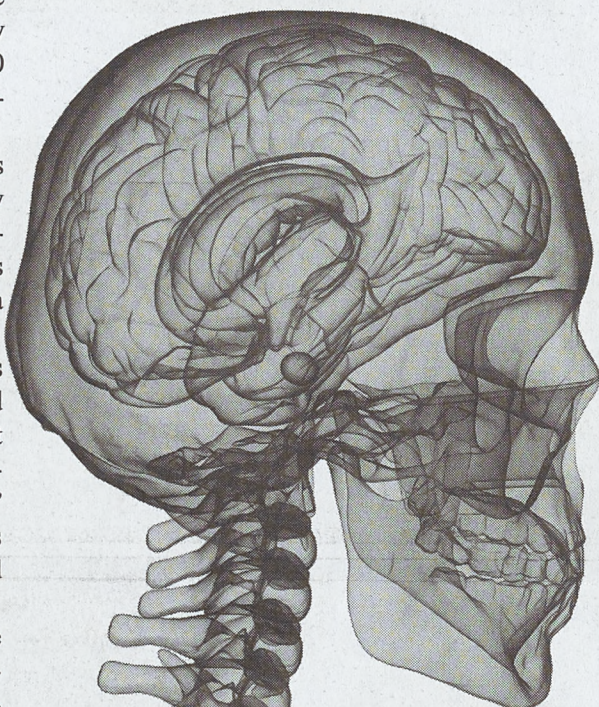
Former Steelers offensive lineman Terry Long, Eagles defensive back Andre Waters and Falcons lineman Shane Dronett are just a few of the many football players who committed suicide and had CTE. But football isn't the only sport notorious for TBIs: boxing, hockey and wrestling—to name three more—are too.

According to ESPN, ex-boxer Mike Quarry died from pugilistic dementia—the original name given to CTE. Former National Hockey League forward Reggie Fleming and enforcer Bob Probert were also diagnosed with CTE after brain autopsies discovered the tissue damage. In addition, professional wrestler Chris Benoit, like various football players, had CTE and committed suicide.

Many are aware of the consequences resulting from high-risk sports; although it is widely known these sports are directly related to CTE, many struggle to determine whether CTE is in any way related to any of the suicides. Relationship or not, many football players' families, like Duerson's, have sued the NFL over the detrimental effects of persistent head injuries from the sport.

"If they knowingly failed to inform and implement proper safety concussion procedures, then their indifference was the epitome of injustice," the NFL star's son, Tregg Duerson, said when his family publicly announced the lawsuit.

With the legal actions players and their families have been taking and the controversy behind whether CTE is related to suicide, researchers hope that families like Seau's will donate these players' brains so the mystery can be solved.



UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO EIGHTEEN MONARCH FOOTBALL PLAYERS

Almost all sophomores on the Valley College football roster will play for four-year universities this fall.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Eighteen sophomores on the Valley College football team received scholarships to four-year universities for the fall semester.

"I can't tell you how rewarding it is for me to see a young man get a scholarship," said football coach Jim Fenwick. "... To have their books, room, board and tuition paid for, it makes their journey through school so much easier."

According to Valley's Athletic Director Diedra Stark, of all the athletes that participate in athletics, about 20 to 30 of them receive scholarships every year. Student-athletes who play with the intent to transfer to a

university must put in the same amount of effort in the classroom as they do on the field.

According to Stark, all students are obligated to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 while completing at least 24 units each year in order to stay eligible.

Those working to get noticed by Division 1 or Division 2 schools have two years to compete at the community college level. Within those two years of competition all student-athletes must complete 60 transferable units to be eligible to transfer.

"There is probably an academic message every day we meet with them," said Fenwick. "Our primary goal here is to help our student-athletes move on to a four-year program."

Football players at Valley are encouraged to take more than 12 units to stay on track for the four-year colleges. According to Fenwick, the first thing that four-year universities ask for when recruiting someone is an unofficial transcript.

Along with having to put in a large amount of work in the classroom, athletes spend about

four hours a day practicing and conditioning to stay on top of their game. Many players are forced to forfeit having a job because of the amount of commitment and time it takes to be a student-athlete.

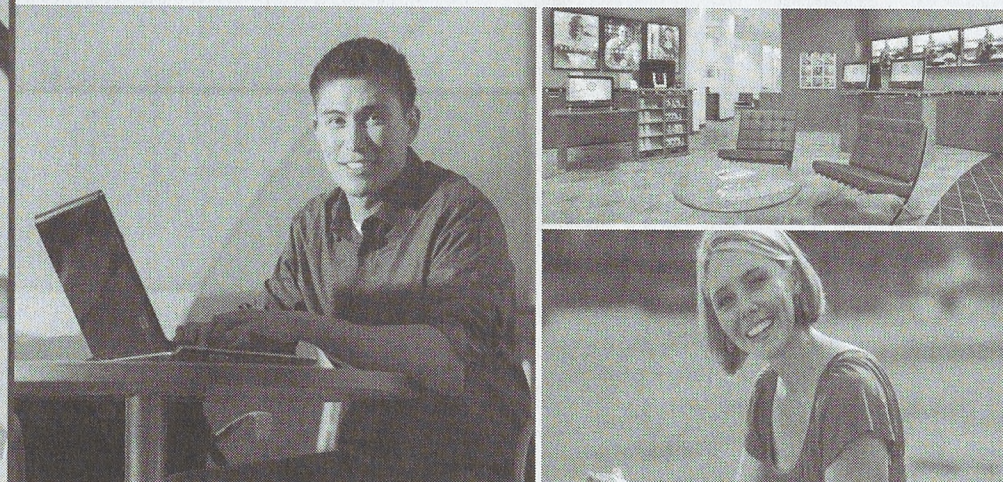
"When you are a full-time student, the amount of work we have to do in order to get an AA degree to transfer to a Division 1 school is difficult," said Kalan Booker, a defensive back for the Monarchs. "I think that school and football [and] having a job is a little harsh."

Booker is one of the 18 sophomores who received a scholarship this year. He will attend Missouri Western State University this fall. He is a product of Taft High School in Woodland Hills and was selected for the Pacific Division First Team while playing for Valley.

"We do our best effort to get kids to take the right classes and pass them with Cs or better," said Fenwick. "We help them do what they need to do in the classroom to prepare them and get them on video so they can get noticed and continue playing."

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DANCE CONCERT "EBB AND FLOW" BRINGS MOVEMENT TO VALLEY COLLEGE

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Celebrating life's "ups and downs, highs and lows, ebbs and flows," the Valley College dance program presented Ebb and Flow, this year's spring production, Friday and Saturday at Valley's Mainstage Theater. The performance, featuring more than 50 dancers collaborating to create 12 numbers, mixed dance styles and genres from classical to modern.

The annual spring production has been a Valley mainstay since 2002 after Geordie Wright started as a full-time dance instructor. Wright also credits co-producer Liz Casebolt, who has been involved with the past two productions since being hired as a full-time dance instructor in 2011, and the department's students.

"This was [Casebolt's] second year co-directing and producing the show, which has been a tremendous asset to the program," said Wright. "There is always a wonderful and very diverse group of students participating in the concert, and this year was no exception."

One such student was

Alex-Rebecca Bowerman, who performed in four numbers: "Blue (Can You Hear Me?)" by instructor Kiha Lee, "When We Were" by guest choreographer Rande Dorn of The Dorn Dance Company and two by students—Monica Michele Fleming's "Flow Interrupted" and Orlando Agawin's "SEVEN," a number with an empowerment theme named for its seven female dancers.

"The language of dance feeds my soul, and learning a new dance vocabulary is always a beautiful challenge," said Bowerman. "Dancing for Rande's piece was the most rewarding, as her particular dance vocabulary—movement—speaks to me and suits my body ... it was a therapeutic and challenging experience."

Joining Lee, Casebolt and Wright were Valley instructors Carla Lubow and Rachel Paul, who in addition to Dorn also welcomed guest choreographer Jackie Lopez of Versastyle Dance Company; the other student choreographers were Mika David, Michelle-Marie Gilkeson and Suzy Hagopian.

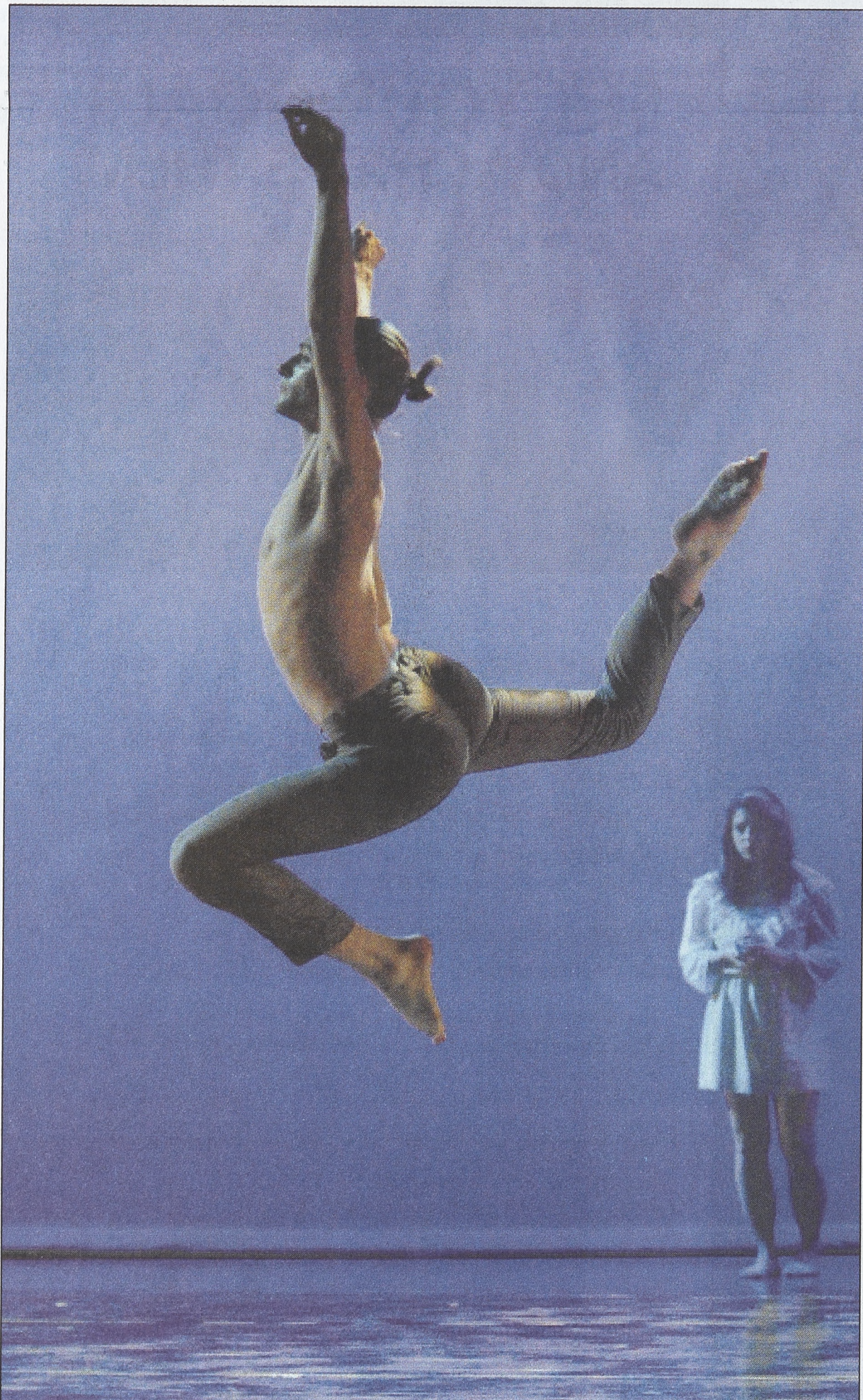
"When words fail, movement and dance can tangibly and emotionally express adequately and uniquely, and as in all art, interpretation can be left up to the viewer," said Bowerman. "Dance for me is less of putting on a show

or entertaining than it is therapy."

In addition to pulling double duty dancing and choreographing, students were also involved in the production—such as stage managing, publicity, program design, concessions, box office and costuming—according to Wright.



TAKING SOLACE - In billowing blouses and flowing skirts, Vivi Varon, Anastasia Loza, Audrey Cain and Morgan Quinn are joined by Kirby Harrell (center) during their performing of "As if Memories Were Solace," a number choreographed by student Michelle-Marie Gilkeson.



AIRBORNE - Luke Zender leapt through the air in front of vocalist Tiffany Jordan while performing "Winter Song," choreographed by dance instructor Carla Lubow, at the Mainstage Theater Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12. It was one of five dances Zender was featured in during Ebb and Flow, Valley College's spring dance production.



TO THE POINT - Audrey Cain performs "Blue (Can You Hear Me?)," choreographed by dance instructor Kiha Lee in collaboration with student dancers. The show was a joint effort by student choreographers, Valley College dance instructors and guest choreographers from Dorn Dance and Versastyle dance companies.



WITHIN REACH - Noelle Andressen-Kale was one of more than 50 students who participated in the dance production. Here, she performs in "Voices From the Past (Die Yaman)" choreographed by student Suzy Hagopian and student dancers.



COME TOGETHER - Dancers embrace during "As if Memories Were Solace," one of a dozen numbers featured in Ebb and Flow, which was performed at the Valley College Mainstage Theater Friday May 11 and Saturday May 12.